1. (currently amended) A ~~schema used by a~~ computer implementing a schema for storing meta data that describes at least one relational database comprising:

at least one abstract class for defining at least one data type of at least one member, said abstract class including:

at least one property for indicating at least one generic Structured Query Language data type for said member;

at least one property for indicating at least one database-specific data type name for said member; and

at least one method for constructing at least one object instantiated from at least one class derived from said abstract class, the object being used by the computer for query execution.

2. (currently amended) The ~~schema of~~ computer of claim 1, wherein said abstract class is a first abstract class, further comprising a second abstract class for describing a user defined data type, said second abstract class derived from said first abstract class, said second abstract class including:

at least one property for indicating whether an object of at least one class derived from said second abstract class is instantiable; and

at least one property for indicating whether said class derived from said second abstract class is final.

3. (currently amended) The ~~schema of~~ computer of claim 1 wherein said abstract class further comprises at least one property for indicating at least one default value for said type of said member.

4. (original) The schema of claim 1 further comprising at least one property for indicating at least one mapping of said database-specific data type name to at least one Java Database Connectivity data type.

5. (currently amended) The ~~schema of~~ computer of claim 1 where said schema is described using the Unified Modeling Language.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) A computer using a database catalog ~~used by a computer~~ for data retrieval, comprising:

at least one object of at least one class derived from at least one abstract class for defining at least one data type of at least one member, said abstract class including:

at least one property for indicating at least one generic Structured Query Language data type for said member;

at least one property for indicating at least one database-specific data type name for said member; and

at least one method for constructing at least one object instantiated from at least one class derived from said abstract class.

8. (currently amended) A computer medium holding a database catalog with meta data stored in at least one storage system that is an implementation of the schema of claim 1.

9. (currently amended) A computer medium holding a tool for creating and editing databases including means for storing meta data in a storage system that is an implementation of the schema of claim 1.

10. (currently amended) A computer medium holding a program ~~method~~ for creating at least one database comprising storing meta data relating to the database in at least one meta data store according to the schema of claim 1.

11. (currently amended) A[[n]] computer executing an object-oriented description of at least one relational database comprising:

at least one object for describing at least one type of at least one member in said relational database, said object instantiated from at least one class derived from at least one abstract class for defining at least one data type of at least one member, said abstract class including:

at least one property for indicating at least one generic Structured Query Language data type for said member;

at least one property for indicating at least one database-specific data type name for said member;

at least one method for constructing at least one object instantiated from at least one class derived from said abstract class~~, the description being used by a computer to access data~~.

12. (previously presented) A computer containing at least one object-oriented description of a relational database, said object-oriented description comprising:

at least one object for describing a type of a member in said relational database, said object instantiated from a class derived from at least one abstract class for defining a data type of a member, said abstract class including:

a property for indicating a generic Structured Query Language data type for said member;

a property for indicating a database-specific data type name for said member; and

a method for constructing at least one object instantiated from a class derived from said abstract class.

13-15 (cancelled).

16. (withdrawn) A method of facilitating sharing of relational database types comprising:

transforming a first representation of database meta data into a second representation of said database meta data, where said second representation of said database meta data follows a given schema; and

storing said first representation in a repository in the form of a set of objects of classes defined in said given schema.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16 where said schema is a Unified Modeling Language schema.

18. (withdrawn) A computer system comprising:

means for transforming a first representation of database meta data into a second representation of said database meta data, where said second representation of said database meta data follows a given schema; and

means for storing said first representation in a repository in the form of a set of objects of classes defined in said given schema.

19. (withdrawn) A computer system operable to:

transform a first representation of database meta data into a second representation of said database meta data, where said second representation of said database meta data follows a given schema; and

store said first representation in a repository in the form of a set of objects of classes defined in said given schema.

20. (currently amended) A computer medium storing an object-oriented programming language implementation of a schema for storing meta data that describes a relational database comprising:

at least one abstract class for defining a data type of a member, said abstract class including:

a property for indicating a generic Structured Query Language data type for said member;

a property for indicating a database-specific data type name for said member; and

a method for constructing at least one object instantiated from a class derived from said abstract class~~, the language being useful to a computer for accessing data in the relational database~~.

21, 22 (canceled).